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A REVERIE.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY JOHN A. NELSON.

I stand amid a gleaming field of gold.
Where buttercups and daisies reign supreme.
And in their simple beauty I behold
The idyl of a poet's fairest dream.

While mirrored in the brook I seem to see
Entwined with sweetest memory, running rife,
The beauty of a face I know to be
The image of the Empress of my life.

As now I muse on happy days gone by,
I seem to see from out the glowing sky
The light of faithless love, and hear the sigh
Of broken hearts and broken ties that grew
To know the thrills of love, like keenest swords,
That pierced them thro' and thro'.

THE DUEL.

WRITTEN AFTER THE GERMAN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY DUDLEY WINTHROP MOORE.

Maria Paulo was Neridow's widow of Odessa. I made the acquaintance of the "fair widow," as she was generally called in Spa-Kreuznach, at the targets, where I took pleasure in spending my forenoons. She attracted me, as she must attract everybody, by her faultless figure, her wonderful, large, velvety eyes, with the long, turned up lashes, and by her refined and simple dress. Besides her physician, Dr. Baum, and the Spa commissary, who had gallantly allowed her to bring her little pet dog into the Spa Park, no one could boast of having formed her acquaintance. So I, the invalid captain with the game leg, had outstripped all the pining gentlemen of every nation, simply because I had placed my own pistols at her disposal. The pistols to be found at the shooting stand were, of course, not good enough for a marksman like the fair Russian. She was, in fact, a crack shot, surpassing us all, barring the gigantic Mr. Morril.

He was a very handsome fellow, this giant with the blue eyes—a gentleman from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet; quiet and particularly amiable—but still rather whimsical. I was introduced to him by my friend, the commissary, on a warm summer evening in the Park restaurant, and as he spoke pretty good German for an Englishman, and I some English, we got along swimmingly.

As the three of us sat there, drinking a social glass together, the fair Russian, on her way home from the theatre, accompanied by her maid, passed by us, and the giant, as if electrified, cried out:

"Mr. Commissary, who is that lady?"

"Mme. Neridow, a Russian from Odessa, but who stubbornly refuses all acquaintance."

"I have no intention of becoming acquainted with her," said the Englishman.

Two days later Mr. Morril was at the butts, dressed all in white, his fine cambric shirt clasped at the waist by a wide leather belt, and his narrow, somewhat long feet, in English russet shoes—presenting an imposing, manly appearance.

The beautiful widow must have been sensible of it also, at least I noticed a wonderful lighting up of the velvet like eyes, and for the first time she did not shoot so well as usual. An introduction was not to be thought of. The blonde gentleman put short the word in my mouth with a formal "Morning, sir."

The intention not to allow himself to be introduced was public. His declaration in the park restaurant occurred to me.

The next two weeks went by, each day alike; mornings I was at the targets with the beautiful Maria, and punctual as a watch appeared also Mr. Englishman. The two young people acted as if they did not see each other. Morril shot like a young god; my charge did her best to beat him, and, as she did not succeed, tried at least to equal him. Maria and I had become pretty intimate. In spite of my game leg and gray hairs I was her almost constant companion.

When she had heard that the younger men styled me everybody's papa, she also called me papa, and from that moment on she was my child. And how well I got acquainted with this peculiar being in those few weeks! Endowed with the rarest charms of nature, she was high spirited, generous, fundamentally good, but also, perhaps, in consequence of her bringing up or descent, passionate, wilful, impetuous to the utmost, yet true as gold. She clung to me, really, like a child.

Had I been an old maid, I should have brought together the two young people I liked so well. But an old invalid captain and match maker! No, that does not really tally. What the Englishman was driving at was unclear to me. And Maria, when I once teased her about the giant and her bad shooting, said simply:

"I hate him! Oh, how I hate him!"

"But, my dear child, why so?"

"Because—I hate him!" and thereupon she clutched her tiny fist and stamped on the ground with her equally small foot.

So passed, said two weeks. Then there came quite an unexpected catastrophe.

It was a bright, sunny morning, which we spent, as usual, at the butts. I had retired to one side, on account of my lameness, to rest a little on a bench on the banks of the Nahe. There I amused myself with drawing figures in the sand with my crutch, and threw at the little fishes in the sparkling water.

Suddenly I heard a dispute between the two young people, now in French, now in English, now in German; Maria, vehement as I had never heard her before—Mr. Morril quiet and sharp. The quarrel had risen through the mistaking of the pistols.

I sprang toward them as quickly as my crippled leg would allow. What did I see? Maria, no longer mistress of herself, had drawn back her little hand, as if to strike. Morril—he seized the little woman's delicate wrist, and pressing it as though in a vise, said, as slowly as possible, his eyes fixed on her the while: "That is not ladylike!" Then, bowing to her slightly, he strode away, leaving Maria beside herself with fury.

"Captain, you must challenge that Englishman!" she cried, in a choked voice.

"Challenge him? But, child—"

"I am no child! You will challenge the insolent Englishman in my name!"

Meanwhile I had taken her arm and led her away. On my way home I tried my best to mollify her. "I will shoot for you," I said.

"No, I won't accept that; then I would finally have my good old friend on my conscience, and would be unhappier than I am now."

"So-o-o! Are you then unhappy?"

Maria colored up. As we had in the meantime approached the hotel, I took my leave. Morril would surely not accept a woman's challenge, I argued with myself—never!

The Englishman lived, like myself, in the Spa

more clever person than myself, and returned in despair to Maria.

Nothing was to be gained there, either; no argument as to the unwomanliness of the thing produced the desired effect. So now my only hope lay in the Spa-Commissary. To him I rushed.

"Mr. Commissary," said I, out of breath, "I come to see you about a duel affair."

"For God's sake, man, that would be already the third this season! Well, perhaps it can be settled, as in the other two cases."

"I don't think so."

"Oh-o, so grave? That's fatal. Tell me about it, Captain."

At the beginning of my recital the commissary

confidence. My idea—the only way to put an end to this embarrassing affair—is as follows—"

I must have spoken convincingly, for the commissary was all ears.

"So, my dear commissary, you will be an impartial party, and bring your pistols with you. But you won't load the things in the usual way, but with a double charge of powder, and a tight felt wad, like you put in your fowling piece over there in the corner. Do you understand?"

"Indeed I do! Hurrah for you, Captain! You are truly everybody's papa!"

"Keep cool, my dear friend. Save your gentle outbursts for the flaxen haired flirt who throws kisses from over the way! So, your nephew and I

of blood; he beat about him with his arms, and, falling backwards, lay there motionless, like a felled oak.

Mme. Neridow gave vent to a piercing shriek and sank into my arms. She wept, wrung her hands and sobbed. "Oh, I have killed him! Oh, I didn't want to do that—I loved him so!"

The first thing I did was to leave the beautiful snorer to her fate and lace handkerchief, in order to run over to the little group and see precisely what had occurred.

The giant lay stretched out on the ground, the doctor bending over him, and beside him stood the commissary and his nephew.

Before Maria could join us the doctor raised the wounded man's head. God be praised, the man smiled! We drew a long breath of relief.

"Heavy load—tight wad—slight flesh wound—will be well again in a few days, Captain," said the doctor. "Take the lady away before he recovers his senses—a little lesson can't hurt her."

That was really cruel, but the man was right.

That he was alive, I could not, however, unjustly withhold from the dear child. She wanted to go to him.

"No, dear," I said, "that won't do—we would only be in the way there. And now compose yourself a little, so the driver won't notice anything. The fellows must have heard the shots."

We drove back to the hotel.

"But I can nurse him, little papa—may I not? He must not die."

"Oh, it won't be so bad as that. For you to nurse him is no more than right and fair. When the swarm of Spring guests has scattered, come to the commissary's office. But hold up your head now, little one! Here we are at the hotel."

Soon afterwards the wounded man was carried to his room, unobserved by a side stairway. No one witnessed the first meeting between the adversaries who had been so embittered. The doctor and I had discreetly retired. About an hour later Maria reappeared in the commissary's office. How her eyes shone!

"Oh, dear, good hearted papa, how I thank you!" she exclaimed, running up to me.

"For what, pray, little one?"

"Do you think I don't see through your plot now? Confess it—there were no bullets in the pistols!"

"Perhaps the commissary—"

"Now, little papa, don't deny it. Had it been otherwise I would be at this moment the unhappiest woman in the world. I thought I was sure of my affair, and wanted to shoot his hat from his head. Oh, when I think of it!" And the pearl like tears began to roll down her dimpled cheeks. But directly afterwards her smile returned like sunshine; and how happy I am now! and how thankful we are to you!"

"He? Then it has already got so far as that?"

"Yes, you dear, good man, it has already got so far as that."

And thereupon she fell upon my neck, and kissed me over and over again, till my old bones fairly cracked for joy.

The little lieutenant was very much disappointed that a similar token of gratitude did not fall to his share, but Maria left us to effect her removal to the Spa House, where the most reserved of all hotel managers had given her a room near the patient. She assumed the care of him, made ice poultices, and provided for the sick man's every want, as though she were a sister of charity by vocation. A week later she returned to her native country, whither her giant soon followed.

Last Fall I received the marriage notice of my dear ones, who are now living on the Lake of Geneva like two turtle doves.

MARIE STUART

was born in this city, July 29, 1872, and received her early training at Mt. St. Vincent Convent, after which her mother accompanied her to Paris, where she completed her education at the school of Mme. Suleau, and, among other accomplishments, became an excellent French scholar. After her return from abroad financial reverses made it necessary for Miss Stuart to depend upon her own resources and she adopted the stage. She made her professional debut Aug. 17, 1891, at Tony Pastor's Theatre, this city, with Frank Tannehill's "Bric-a-Brac" Co. "Bric-a-Brac" only lasted five weeks, and at its close Miss Stuart went to the Boston Conservatory of Music, where she studied for one year. She then went with Frank Daniels' "Little Puck" Co., but her first prominent success was made in the part of the French Girl in "A Railroad Ticket." At the termination of this engagement she accepted an offer from the Grotto Theatre, in Chicago, where she became a great favorite during the World's Fair. She then appeared with the Reeves & Palmer Co. in most of the principal cities in the West, meeting with great success. Her next engagement was at the Imperial Music Hall, this city, where she now is, and where she has been very successful. Miss Stuart has a peculiar personality, which gives brightness and originality to her work that is refreshing and unconventional.

AN INDISCREET HUNTER.

Patrick and Michael went out hunting one rainy day—it was the only day that they could get off. All went well with them until, when they were several miles from home, they discovered that neither one had brought a cartridge, and that not a shot could be fired.

"Begorra," said Pat, cheerfully, "what's that to do with the huntin'?" Is the want of a cartridge any reason to prevent a man from huntin'?"

"None at all," said Michael.

So they continued to hunt. By and by a rabbit started up close to Pat and then came to a stop, curiously watching the hunters. Pat instantly brought his gun to his shoulder.

"The goosoon that ye air!" exclaimed Mike. "Would you shoot him without a cartridge?"

The rabbit hopped away.

"Whisht!" said Pat, angrily, "there ye go, spilin' the sport wid yer blatherin' tongue!"

"Patrick! An' yer gun was not loaded!"

"Sure, ye spalpeen, but the rabbit would niver 'a' knowed it if ye'd hild yer blather!"—*Youth's Companion.*

House. I went at once to his door and knocked.

"Come in," he called out, and as I entered he rose from his sofa, in an elegant smoking jacket, and offered me a chair and a cigarette.

"Mr. Morril, I come in reference to a certain affair," I began.

"I understand. If you want satisfaction from me, you shall have it. I am ready for everything. But," he added, "I am sorry—very sorry, because I liked you as a good old friend, and therewith he looked at me so sadly with his clear blue eyes, that I fell into a very tender mood."

"No, Mr. Morril," I replied, holding out my hand to him. "Mme. Neridow will shoot with you herself."

"Very well," he said.

I could scarcely believe my ears. I thought he would laugh off the matter. But no; he said in the driest business tone, "Very well?"

"But, Mr. Morril, you surely will not shoot with a lady?"

"Oh, yes, indeed?"

"And what if you are shot? Mme. Neridow shoots well."

"No matter."

"But what if you hit Mme. Neridow?"

"No matter."

"What?" I exclaimed, "you even want to hit this angel, this charming creature?"

"Oh, dear, no!"

I was speechless.

"If you will give me your word to say nothing to the fair widow, I will also give you my word to fire in the air."

Heaven, that was a ray of light!

"But," I began again, "what if you are hit?"

"Then I will be dead, or she will marry me."

Saying this he rose, to put an end to our conversation.

I took my leave with a rather stupid countenance, which would probably have happened to a

laughed; at the conclusion of the same, he became more and more serious.

"Then I must go at once to these two hotheaded boobies myself," he said, finally.

"Do so by all means, my good sir; yet I fear it will be of no avail."

"We shall see." Remain here till I return. There, on the little table, are mild and strong cigars, and matches; and there, in the corner, is some good brandy. Make yourself at home. Goodby, Captain."

He was off, and I sat alone, trying to enjoy one of the really good cigars, in spite of my worry. Happy looking faces went by the office windows; over the way, in the theatre garden, the actors laughed and joked, and a pretty blonde flirt, with narrow waist, and probably not over scrupulous, gracefully kissed her hand to me. But everything vexed me. If the commissary were only back. What kept him so long? Would he succeed as a peacemaker? Perhaps—

And back he came, disappointed and dejected.

"There's nothing to be done—nothing at all," he said, dolefully.

"H'm! H'm!" That was all I could say.

We sat facing each other awhile in silence, occupied only with our thoughts.

Suddenly an idea struck me.

"Commissary, I have it!" I cried.

"You make me curious, Captain," came through a thick cloud of smoke.

"The two shall shoot."

"Is that the idea?"

"You will pretend to be impartial."

"Thanks for the honor!"

"First listen to me sensibly, commissary. Whom could the giant get for a second?"

"Probably my nephew, the little lieutenant, who arrived two days ago—the only one he knows."

"So much the better. He must be taken into our

will agree upon an exchange of three shots at a distance of ten paces. Prepare your ammunition accordingly, and at half past five in the morning be in the woods back of the forester's house of Theodorshall. Inform Dr. Baum, and bring him with you in your carriage."

"I shall be as you say," replied the commissary.

"Well and good! Attend to the matter with your nephew."

The next morning at five o'clock three carriages rolled over the road to Münster. In the pony carriage, driven by the commissary himself, sat the doctor with his surgical instruments and bandage cloths, and behind him a trusty servant with the ominous brown pistol case. The second carriage contained the Englishman and the little lieutenant, the fair Maria and myself bringing up the rear.

That I made one more, but ineffectual, effort to dissuade my minion from her purpose, I doubtless need not mention. Also our attempt to bring about a reconciliation, in order to do away with the utterly foolish comedy, miscarried woefully. She said: "Never!"

"He said: 'As madame will!'"

Then everything went on the place of combat as with every duel. Yesterday I was full of confidence that our plan would come to a successful issue. Today I was full of all kinds of doubts. What if they discovered the trick? Both were accustomed to handle firearms from their childhood up. A very painful scene might take place.

Already the commissary counted—"one—two—"

Even before I heard "three," two heavy shots, as from rifles, rang out simultaneously, echoing through the still woods in the sunny Sunday morning.

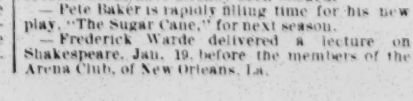
But what was that?

"Heavenly Father! how could that be? Quicker than I could think, something unexpected happened—something incredible, inconceivable. Mr. Morril staggered; from under his hat trickled drops



VARIETY and MINSTRELSY

—H. F. Schmieding writes that, in conjunction with his theatrical agency, he has assumed the management of Morgan's Famous Minstrels, the L. ceum Theatre Co. and Prof. Ray Morston's lecture tour. He also contemplates opening an office in St. Louis, Mo.



— Leo Clifford has been reengaged for the remainder of the season for Fitz & Webster's "A Breezy Time" Co.

Bob Taylor, of Tennessee, delivered his lecture, "A Paradise of Fools," to a large audience. Verona Jarrett in "Starlight," delighted a crowded house Jan. 25. "Lost in New York" did a first class business 26.

TOM GENARO writes that he was married to Be Carter at Maplewood, Ill., Jan. 21.

EDWARD ESTUS and wife have rejoined the Ma Russell Co.

Paducah.—At Morton's Opera House ex-Gov. Bob Taylor, of Tennessee, delivered his lecture, "A Paducah of Fools," to a large audience. Vermona Jarreau in "Starlight," delighted a crowded house Jan. 23. "Los in New York" did a first class business 26.

last week. "The Black Flag" week of 29.
BUCKINGHAM THEATRE—Irwin Br.'s comedy and
Vanderhille Co. received liberal patronage last week.
Londona Gaiety girls week of 29.
NEW GEM—New faces week of 29: Davis, B. or., Clair
Hayes, Ames and Norman, Mary Crane and the stock.
NOTES—Ed. O. Rusley, formerly treasurer of Har-
Theatre this city, left 20 to join "The Romany Rye."

NOTES—Edo O. Risley, formerly Treasurer of Harris Theatre, this city, left 20 to join "The Romany Rye Co." Phil W. Niles joined the Carroll Johnsons & Co. 2 Mrs. W. A. Jones, proprietress of the New Gem, returned 22 from a visit to the Northwest.

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Elmira—At the Opera House "The White Squadron" was the attraction Jan. 25 to good business. The Minstrels did fairly well. 25. The New York Opera House, Jan. 26. Julia Keen. "Only a German," came 29. Due: "The Rising Generation," Jan. 29. "Kidd," Jan. 30. "Robin Hood," Feb. 1. The M. M. Mason Co. 6. "A Trip to Chincatown," Jan. 27.

NEW YORK STATE.

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WINTER SPORT.

Coming Events.
Feb. 1.—Annual curling match, Scotch vs. All Nationalities, McInnes' Hotel.
Feb. 3.—Amateur skating association of Canada championship races, Montreal, Can.
Feb. 24, 25.—Swedish speed and figure skating championships, at Stockholm, Sweden.
Feb. 25, 26.—Amateur skating championships of Europe, at Hamar, Norway.

The International Bouspiel.

The curling bouspiel for the Walkerville Trophy was concluded at St. Paul, Minn., on Jan. 19, the representatives of Canada, reentering the prize from the players of that city. There were a dozen rinks a side, and some excellent play was witnessed by large crowds of interested spectators. The score:

Canadians.	RISK 1.	Americans.
Gallagher,	Judge Ory,	Hinkel,
Barrett,	Hinkel,	McMillan,
Lenon,	McMillan,	J. Shaw, skip,
		12 C. M. Griggs, skip,
		15
Glicher,	RISK 2.	
McDemott,	Dona,	
Campbell,	Loomis,	
C. W. Huffman, skip,	16 C. B. Roberts, skip,	16
Bruce,	RISK 3.	
Adams,	Schemmell,	
Grundy,	Doley,	
I. R. McKenzie, skip,	14 A. McConchie, skip,	11
Siekle,	RISK 4.	
Driver,	H. H. Hinkel,	
Holloway,	Chandler,	
A. Cruikshank, skip,	11 S. S. Chandler, skip,	15
Cowie,	RISK 5.	
Livingston,	Bunker,	
Stirton,	Grisham,	
Wm. Connors, skip,	10 J. E. Jones, skip,	10
Johnson,	RISK 6.	
Rourke,	Thompson,	
Georgeson,	Smith,	
Tom Kelly, skip,	12 T. Hastings, skip,	10
Maher,	RISK 7.	
Bridges,	McCarthy,	
Drewry,	Cameron, A.,	
J. Courtney, skip,	15 G. O. Nettleton, skip,	9
Kelly,	RISK 8.	
McDonald,	Whitcomb,	
Patterson,	Murray,	
W. Y. Fraser, skip,	20 Tom Scott, skip,	14
Nicholson,	RISK 9.	
Sharp,	Muir,	
Carlson,	Holmes,	
M. Fortune, skip,	16 S. Nelson, skip,	12
Gail,	RISK 10.	
Peters,	Campbell,	
Wilson,	Kelly,	
F. L. Patton, skip,	10 G. O. Wood, skip,	13
Mathew, G.,	RISK 11.	
McFarlan,	Smith,	
Dingle,	Fullerton,	
G. W. Murray, skip,	17 R. McLeod, skip,	14
McDonald,	RISK 12.	
Sutherland,	McMillan,	
Carson,	Patridge,	
R. H. Dunbar, skip,	18 A. McConchie, skip,	7

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One No. 10, round top, one No. 10, square top, one No. 12, square top, one No. 14, square top, one No. 16, square top, one No. 18, square top, one No. 20, square top, one No. 22, square top, one No. 24, square top, one No. 26, square top, one No. 28, square top, one No. 30, square top, one No. 32, square top, one No. 34, square top, one No. 36, square top, one No. 38, square top, one No. 40, square top, one No. 42, square top, one No. 44, square top, one No. 46, square top, one No. 48, square top, one No. 50, square top, one No. 52, square top, one No. 54, square top, one No. 56, square top, one No. 58, square top, one No. 60, square top, one No. 62, square top, one No. 64, square top, one No. 66, square top, one No. 68, square top, one No. 70, square top, one No. 72, square top, one No. 74, square top, one No. 76, square top, one No. 78, square top, one No. 80, square top, one No. 82, square top, one No. 84, square top, one No. 86, square top, one No. 88, square top, one No. 90, 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Did you hear about the prize fight, short time ago,
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Didn't last long, just about a minute,
We soon found out, Charlie Mitchell wasn't "in it!"
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Oh! you can't lose me, Charlie; deed you can't lose me, Charlie;
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E. C. BASCOM, Sole Prop. and Manager.
P. S.—Marie Rostelle's New Henry Burlesque Co. played week Jan. 22, to the largest business ever done in Lowell, playing against Marie Jansen, "County Circus" and "Black Crook," and they turned people away at each performance. If you don't believe this, ask Manager Sam Desautel.
NOTICE.—ALL SPECIALTY ARTISTS booked at this house have been CANCELED for balance of season. Playing combinations only.
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CHAS. W. FONDA and W. HENRY. **ALL COMBINATIONS BOOKED AT THIS THEATRE CANCELED.**
This house will be opened Feb. 12, 1894, for the remainder of the season as a first class variety house, two shows daily. WANTED—At all times All Specialty People for lady audiences, Novelties Acts to feature. N. B.—Would like to hear from first class Colored Quartet; also Trapeze People and Piano Player. Preference given to people playing in this vicinity. Address FONDA & HENRY, Bijou Theatre, North Adams, Mass.

FOUR COHANS

Met with a grand reception. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cohan's Bright, Clean Comedy Sketch, the fine back dancing and character work of George, and the wonderful dancing of Josie, who is unquestionably the most agile danseuse on the American Stage, elicited the most emphatic expression of approval.—BOSTON HERALD, Tuesday Jan. 23. Keith's Bijou Theatre, Boston, this week. Bijou, Philadelphia, Feb. 5 and 12.

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HARRY SIMPSON, late of W. S. Cleveland's Minstrel, writes: "It's a SURE HIT and the best words to any song of the kind I have ever seen." HARRY E. DALEY writes from St. Louis: "It's the BIGGEST KIND OF HIT. I get FOUR AND FIVE ENCORES on it every night." Professionals send card or programme and 10c. all others, 50c. L. A. HARBER, Publisher, Keletville, Pa.

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Mr. James Galt—The Zereeths are one of the few sketch teams that do two different turns, and do them well. They opened my show with Irish, and closed with a Dutch sketch, and were so distinct that my audience did not know but what they were different people.
Want to hear from managers in the East. Cleveland, O., until Feb. 10, 1894, after that care of CLIPPER.

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